

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8405

INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 1599

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINTS, RO

SUBJECT: AMALGAMATION OF MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND COUNCIL
OF SOCIALIST CULTURE AND EDUCATION RUMORED

1. ROMANIAN SOURCE HAS TOLD US THAT STORY IS BEING WIDELY
DISSEMINATED IN CULTURAL COMMUNITY (SHE MENTIONED SOURCES IN
THREE DIFFERENT ORGANIZATIONS) THAT MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
AND COUNCIL OF SOCIALIST EDUCATION AND CULTURE ARE
ABOUT TO BE AMALGAMATED INTO ENLARGED MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
AND CULTURE WHICH WILL BE HEADED BY NICULESCU-MIZIL BUT WILL
REPORT TO BURTICA AS PARTY SECRETARY. DUMITRU POPESCU,
WHO HEADS COUNCIL AND IS ALSO PARTY SECRETARY, WOULD LOSE
BOTH HIS POSITIONS AS HEAD OF COUNCIL AND AS PRTY SECRETARY.
ONE OF POPESCU'S CURRENT DEPUTIES AT COUNCIL, ION DODU
BALAN, WOULD ALSO REPORTEDLY BE DROPPED WHILE OTHER TWO
DEPUTIES, DUMITRU GHISE AND ION JINGA WOULD BE RETAINED.
SOURCE ALSO STATES THAT MIHNEA GHEORGHIU WILL BECOME DEPUTY
MINISTER (THIS PARALLELS EARLIER REPORTS).

2. COMMENT: RIVALRY BETWEEN PARTY SECRETARIES BURTICA
AND POPESCU IS WELL ESTABLISHED AS IS FACT THAT BURTICA'S
STAR HAS BEEN RISING STEADILY DUE TO HIS CLOSE RELATIONSHIP
WITH CEAUSESCU WHILE POPESCU HAS APPEARED TO BE ON DESCENT
SINCE LATE 1971. IN LATE 1972, POPESCU'S RETIREMENT WAS
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REPORTED BY SENIOR CULTURAL OFFICIALS TO BE IMMINENT BUT

APPARENT DECISION TO THIS EFFECT WAS SUDDENLY REVERSED AND
POPESCU STAYED. EVEN IF CURRENT RUMORS DO NOT PAN OUT,
THEY PROBABLY DO REFLECT ANOTHER SERIOUS EFFORT BY BURTICA
TO DISPLACE POPESCU. GIVEN CURRENT TRENDS IN LEADERSHIP
INVOLVING FURTHER RAPID ADVANCE OF CEAUSESCU PROTEGES,
OUR SOURCE'S INFORMATION MAY WELL BE SUBSTANTIALLY TRUE.
BARNES

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